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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system that facilitates software installation comprising:
 - a transformation component that receives one or more configurable data elements, and one or more non-configurable data elements describing the one or more configurable data elements; and
 - a merge component that employs one or more transformation instructions that configures the one or more configurable data elements to facilitate the installation of the one or more configurable data elements into at least one target data set.
2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more configurable data elements are stored in a data structure associated with the configurable module.
3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the data structure is a metadata item description table.
4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more non-configurable data elements are stored in a data structure associated with the configurable module.
5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the one or more non-configurable data elements are stored in a metadata item description table.

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6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more transformation instructions are stored in a data structure associated with the configurable module.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the one or more transformation instructions are stored in a transformation instruction table.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the data structure includes at least one of a name of a configurable data element, and a semantic meaning for the configurable data element.

9. (Currently amended) A data interpretation system executing on at least one computer, comprising:

a data interpretation component that;

receives one or more configurable data elements from a configurable module, wherein the one or more data elements include configuration information related to installing the one or more data elements into a software program;

applies one or more transformation instructions from the configurable module to the configurable data elements to configure the configurable data elements, and

installs the configurable data elements into a target data set based at least in part upon the configuration information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a user interface to enable a user to query the configurable module to determine which of the one or more data elements are configurable.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising:

a merging component adapted to receive one or more updated configurable data elements from the data interpretation component and adapted to provide the one or more updated configurable data elements to a target data set.

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12. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
an authoring schema that describes a configurable module.
13. (Currently amended) A method that is executed on one or more computer for installing a configurable data set into a target data set, comprising:
obtaining one or more data elements from a configurable module;
including metadata that describes the configuration options of the configurable data set;
obtaining one or more transformation instructions from the configurable module;
and
applying the one or more transformation instructions to a copy of the one or more data elements from the configurable module to configure the one or more data elements for installation into the target data set.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
identifying a target data set; and
inserting the updated data elements into the target data set.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
presenting one or more configuration options to a user;
accepting one or more configuration selections from the user; and
selectively configuring the one or more data elements based on the user's configuration selections.
16. (Original) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions operable to perform the method of claim 13.
17. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for creating a configurable data module, comprising:

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creating a configurable data set having one or more configurable data elements;
and
creating one or more data structures containing information associated with one or more configurable data elements; and
displaying the information to a software program to facilitate installing the configurable data set into the software program.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein creating a configurable data set includes:

identifying one or more attributes of the one or more data elements; and
establishing one or more default values for the attributes of the one or more data elements.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein creating the one or more data structures further comprises:

identifying one or more locations within a data set that are configurable;
identifying one or more configuration options;
creating one or more instructions concerning how to configure the one or more locations; and
storing the instructions in the one or more data structures.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the one or more data structures are stored in the configurable data module.

21. (Original) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions operable to perform the method of claim 17.

22. (Currently amended) A system that is executed on one or more computer for installing a configurable data set into a target data set, comprising:

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a configurable module having configurable data elements representing a configurable data set and non-configurable data elements representing a portion of the configurable data set;

a user interface for selecting which configurable data element to modify; and

a data interpretation system for receiving the configurable and non-configurable data elements from the configurable module and applying the transformation instructions applicable to the user selections associated with the configurable data elements to enable installing the configurable data set into the target data set.

23. (Currently amended) A data packet ~~adapted to be transmitted as a communication signal~~ between at least two computer processes, comprising:

a configurable module having:

one or more configurable data elements, wherein one or more default values for the one or more configurable data elements are available;

one or more non-configurable data elements describing the one or more configurable data elements; and

one or more transformation instructions that facilitate configuring the one or more configurable data elements, wherein the instructions are employed to facilitate installation of the one or more configurable data elements into a target data set residing in at least one of the at least two computer processes.

24. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field containing one or more configurable data elements, wherein one or more default values for the one or more configurable data elements are available;

a second data field containing one or more non-configurable data elements describing the one or more configurable data elements; and

a third data field containing one or more transformation instructions that facilitate configuring the one or more configurable data elements[[],] to load the configurable data elements into a software program.